

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
HA-05 BIB-01 IO-13 /085 W
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R 211330Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0821
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 08516

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT
SUBJECT: MORE ON APRIL 14 DEMONSTRATION IN TBILISI

REF: (A) MOSCOW 8326, (B) MOSCOW 7819

SUMMARY: TDY EMBOFF WHO HAPPENED TO BE IN TBILISI ON DAY
OF DEMONSTRATION WITNESSED PART OF THE AFFAIR AND LATER
SPOKE WITH SEVERAL PARTICIPANTS. END SUMMARY.

1. TDY EMBOFF WALKING ALONG TBILISI'S MAIN STREET AT 2:30
PM APRIL 14 OBSERVED WHAT APPEARED TO BE MASSIVE TRAFFIC
JAM AT RUSTAVELI MONUMENT, WITH SOME 200 PEOPLE GATHERED
AROUND THE MONUMENT (WHICH DID NOT SEEM REMARKABLE, SINCE
THE MAIN STREET USUALLY IS CROWDED WITH PEDESTRIANS), AND
SEVERAL UNIFORMED MILITIAMEN STANDING IN THE AREA. NO
PLACARDS WERE OBSERVED, NOR WAS IT APPARENT THAT THE CROWD
WAS ORGANIZED.

2. EMBOFF RETURNED TO THE AREA OF THE MONUMENT ABOUT 5:00
PM THAT EVENING, TO FIND THAT CROWD HAD DEPARTED BUT ABOUT
TEN MILITIAMEN WERE IN VICINITY OF MONUMENT, WITH BUS CON-
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TAINING ABOUT 30 MORE MILITIAMEN PARKED NEARBY. CONVERSA-
TIONS WITH BYSTANDERS DISCLOSED THAT:

-- UNIVERSITY STUDENTS APPARENTLY MADE UP BULK OF DEMON-
STRATORS;
-- THEIR CONCERN WAS TREATMENT OF GEORGIAN LANGUAGE IN NEW
REPUBLIC CONSTITUTION, WITH SOME STUDENTS SEEMING TO BE-

LIEVE THAT ADOPTION OF NEW CONSTITUTION WOULD REQUIRE
GEORGIAN STUDENTS TO STUDY RUSSIAN;
-- DEMONSTRATION WAS PEACEFUL, AND WAS TIMED TO COINCIDE
WITH MEETING OF GEORGIAN SUPREME SOVIET REGARDING NEW
CONSTITUTION;

-- HIGHEST, ON-THE-SPOT ESTIMATE OF NUMBER OF DEMONSTRATORS
WAS ONE THOUSAND;

-- ONE STUDENT NOTED THAT DEMONSTRATION WAS FIRST ONE SINCE
"THE ONE AFTER STALIN" (PRESUMABLY A REFERENCE TO THE DE-
MONSTRATION IN TBILISI DURING THE DE-STALINIZATION PERIOD
IN 1956). TOON

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Message Attributes

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